



Position Opening

Job Title:	Gardener
Department:	McGovern Centennial Gardens
Work Location:	Hermann Park, Houston, TX
Full-time/Part-time:	Full-time

Reports to: Horticulturist

Job Summary: The McGovern Centennial Gardens (MCG) in Hermann Park will be a unique display garden and destination, free to the public, open daily, and available for special events on occasion. It is a place of beauty designed to stimulate learning and a love of gardens in an urban setting. The Gardener will join a dedicated staff responsible for the daily operation of the garden, to ensure the highest standards of landscape displays, and to implement environmentally responsible maintenance practices.

Essential Responsibilities (include but are not limited to):

- Physically perform general garden maintenance, including planting, weeding, watering, fertilizing, pruning, trimming, trash removal, etc.
- Assist and perform tasks such as digging up and transplanting trees and shrubs, dig up and transplant sod, pot flowers and plants, propagate plants and vegetables.
- Assist in preparation of soil and seed beds, receive training to grade sod, weed, mulch, and mow laws, assist in repairing damaged planting areas, receive training in pruning and spraying trees, shrubs, and plants.
- Supervise volunteers and interns assigned to the area. Contribute to a team effort. Collaborate with and assist maintenance staff as necessary.
- Assist with plant record keeping and on-going efforts to implement the design of the MCG as specified by the design team.
- Responsible for cleaning and securing all equipment at the end of the day and notifying supervisor of any tool or supply needs.
- Assist in group and special projects as required.
- Participate in garden-wide events, educational programs, and research projects as required, for example, horticultural demonstrations, horticultural tours, etc.
- Ability to interact with the public, to assist in monitoring public behavior within the MCG, to educate garden visitors as to acceptable 'garden etiquette'. Perform duties in a manner consistent with a public garden serving multi-generation and multi-cultural families. Serve as an 'ambassador' to Hermann Park and the HPC.
- Application of pesticides, biological controls, and fertilizers using IPM approach as required and directed. Be vigilant and proactive to monitor quality and health of plants within the garden, as well as in the parking areas and the perimeter.
- Monitor and assist maintenance staff with irrigation system, pump systems (where applicable), repair minor problems, and report malfunctions.

Other Duties and Responsibilities:

- Complies with provisions of current Employee Handbook, all published personnel policies, and the requirements of the job description.
- Ensures all mishaps, injuries, and incidents are reported immediately and in writing to the Director of Horticulture and to the Executive Director of the Hermann Park Conservancy.
- Performs simple record keeping and prepares simple written reports.

Required Skills, Education and Experience:

- Associate's degree in landscape maintenance, construction, or related field OR
- At least 15 college credits in horticulture, agriculture, or a related field OR

- Certificate from a recognized horticultural or botanical program like the Texas Master Gardener certification OR
- 2 years equivalent experience working in a public or botanic garden or in the landscape industry can be considered as a substitute for a degree or certification.
- Knowledge of general horticultural principles, landscape management techniques, ornamental plant identification OR a strong interest in and ability to learn plants and their horticultural requirements.
- Experience working in groups or independently with minimal supervision.
- Basic computer skills including use of Microsoft Office and Microsoft Excel.
- Must possess a valid Texas driver's license with a current clean record, able to work legally in the United States.

Physical Demands/Working Conditions:

- Applicants must be able and willing to work outdoors in environmental and weather conditions typical to Houston, Texas.
- Able to lift 50 lbs repeatedly.
- Must be able to bend, squat, kneel, stand, and walk for extended periods of time.
- Must be able to handle typical landscape maintenance equipment (small vehicles, mowers, blowers, hedge trimmers, pruners, blowers, tillers, etc).
- Works with an awareness of surroundings, and vigilant to any possible threat to the safety of the visitors, volunteers, and staff or to their property. Ensures that all concerns are reported properly and promptly.
- Able to work flexible hours as needed, including a rotation for nights, weekends, and holidays.

Compensation:

This is a full-time exempt position with competitive salary commensurate with experience. Benefits package available.

Application Process:

Applications for this position will be accepted until a suitable candidate is identified. This position reports directly to the Director of Horticulture for the Centennial Garden, Jane Curtis. Interested applicants should submit the following via e-mail to jcurtis@hermannpark.org: (a) cover letter explaining interest in the position, (b) current resume, and (c) two references including contact information. No phone calls, please.

Hermann Park Conservancy is an equal opportunity employer.